**Sounding the Border: Echoes and Transmissions from the Morley Reserve - a conversation**

Janna Graham in conversation with Cheryl L’Hirondelle and Candice Hopkins about piracy, performance, community process and autonomy

2004

It is a cold but sunny March afternoon and artist Cheryl L’Hirondelle is on the side of the TransCanada highway on the Morley Reserve between Banff and Calgary. She is placing rocks in patterns that tag the phrase “*pe-miyonakwan iskonikan askiy”* (“look at this leftover land”) in Cree syllabics. A trucker honks. She turns and waves. Two miles away, at the Morley School, a group of high-school students are rapping, breakdancing, mixing and broadcasting radio at ten watts - a pirate transmission according to Canadian regulations.

We are at the apex of *Echoes and Transmissions*, an ongoing community project initiated by curator Candice Hopkins with interdisciplinary artist Cheryl L’Hirondelle. As part of Hopkins’ exhibition *A Question of Place* at the Walter Philips Gallery (3 April to 23 May, 2004) . L’Hirondelle and Hopkins worked with community members to stage a number of performative activities, including audio and video workshops, tagging, a pirate radio broadcast from the school and ongoing conversations about the relationship between the reserve and the Banff Centre for the Arts…

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